

Arizona Silver Belt

ESTABLISHED IN 1878, BY A. H. HARRIS.
JOS. H. HAMIL, Editor and Proprietor.
Entered at the Postoffice at Globe, Arizona,
as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year (in advance).....\$2.50
Six Months.....1.25
Three Months.....75

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1904.

Official Paper of Gila County.

DEMOCRATIC TERRITORIAL

For Delegate to Congress—

MARK A. SMITH
Of Pima County.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY

For Councilman—

GEO. W. P. HUNT

For Representative—

SAMUEL A. HAUGHT

For Sheriff—

E. P. SHANLEY

For Supervisors—

J. G. OLDFIELD

W. C. COLCORD

For Recorder—

RICHARD FLEMING

For Treasurer—

W. W. BROOKNER

For District Attorney—

A. R. EDWARDS

For Probate Judge—

P. C. ROBERTSON

For Surveyor—

W. S. SULTAN

For Justice of the Peace, Globe—

HINSON THOMAS

For Constable, Globe—

ANDY MAYSS

MR. HICKEY'S REPORT

This issue of the SILVER BELT is largely taken up by the report of P. K. Hickey, setting forth his conclusions in reference to the several county officers, after an examination lasting from July 14 to October 4, 1904. The report is published by order of the board of supervisors.

When the board employed an accountant to expert the county records, it was generally supposed that they were acting in good faith, and that the person employed to do the work, would make an honest investigation, free from personal or partisan influence, or ulterior motive, and that the results would be concisely stated in his report, without comment, omitting denunciation of certain county officials' shortcomings and extenuation of others' or flattery of those who, in the expert's opinion, had done their duty. Our idea of an expert accountant's work was that its primary purpose was to examine and compare the records, particularly as to matters of finance, and to discover whether or not errors or discrepancies existed, and especially in the case of a county or other body politic, whether the moneys were all accounted for. Brief suggestions as to systems and methods of keeping the records would be admissible, but any material departure from the form here outlined would have been thought unusual, to say the least.

Having patiently and carefully perused Mr. Hickey's voluminous report, we find that there are those whose ideas of what is essential in such a report differ radically from ours. Mr. Hickey's report fills sixteen columns of this paper, of which, perhaps one-fourth is pertinent. We are not finding fault with anything in the report that is legitimate, nor with the wisdom of the board of supervisors in having the county records experted, although we fail to see why the chairman of the board should claim undue credit and pose as the good genius and argus-eyed protector of Gila county's affairs, except for his desire to be re-elected to office. The fulsome flattery of the chairman and some other county officials, contained in the report, is so nauseating that it is revolting to some of the beneficiaries themselves. In ordering an examination of the county records, the board of supervisors did right. The investigation has been the means of recovering a large amount of the county funds which had been misappropriated by a republican official; and the bondsmen of Mr. Morehead (who was nominated by both the democratic and republican parties in 1900) are financially able to make good any shortage shown by the records during his term of office, whenever the fact of such shortage and the amount shall have been established.

Mr. Hickey has some queer traits

or an expert accountant to possess. He had been here only a few days, engaged in the examination of county records, when he commenced to talk of what he had found out, contrary to all rules and propriety in such a case, and he continued to give out "information" throughout the period of his employment, seriously reflecting upon county officials, which more complete investigations proved to be groundless, according to his own statements.

One of the most objectionable features of his report, and which is deserving of severe censure, is the singling out of certain individuals, ex-officials of the county, and one at present holding office, and severely criticizing them for obtaining advances on their salaries without presenting warrants for the money, and insinuating very strongly that a large portion of the moneys thus drawn as advances, was not returned and that Mr. Morehead was the victim of his friends, whom he thus accommodated. The heinousness of this offense by Treasurer Morehead and his friends is dwelt upon, while the present county officers are not mentioned at all as having engaged in this reprehensible practice, although the records show that the members of the present board of supervisors, Chairman L. C. Woods not excepted, and the district attorney have all drawn money from the county treasury unlawfully, as advances. Yet Mr. Hickey, when asked if such was not the case, and with a full knowledge that the records contained the indisputable evidence that they had drawn advances, denied it.

To emphasize Mr. Hickey's hypocrisy in this matter, notwithstanding the fact that he censures the practice of the treasurer advancing money without receiving at the time of payment a legal warrant, and cites Section 398, of Crimes Against the Revenue, covering this offense, yet he himself abetted the violation of the statute by obtaining advances from the treasurer from time to time during the period of his employment by this county, to the amount of \$600 in the aggregate, without ever presenting a warrant, but simply upon order of the chairman of the board of supervisors, who appears to have constituted himself the "whole thing."

Also, in his reference to Treasurer Hitecock, this remarkable expert as much as says that any irregularities found in his records and accounts are excusable and chargeable to his predecessor. To use Mr. Hickey's own words: "Mr. Hitecock having great confidence in the ability of Mr. Morehead to keep records correctly, endeavored to follow in his footsteps, without further guidance, and having little idea of the plan of a double-entry set of books, and the methods and system of Mr. Morehead being as above described, it was certain to lead Mr. Hitecock into carelessness and error." That is a remarkable statement in view of the fact that Mr. Hitecock was Mr. Morehead's predecessor, as well as successor, in the treasurer's office.

If anything further was needed to utterly discredit the statements made by Mr. Hickey in his report, his own contradictions and retractions, and particularly the two affidavits made by him and attached to the report by order of the chairman, are sufficient to destroy the credibility of other statements contained in the report.

There seems to be no good reason to doubt that Mr. Hickey made his report conform in its main features to the wishes of the chairman of the board of supervisors, who, during the time of Mr. Hickey's investigations, was in close touch with him, and as chairman, supervised his work. As proof that Chairman Woods exercised his authority even as to the wording of certain portions of the report, we will cite one instance. J. H. Thompson protested against his name being used in the report in the way it is, the language implying that he had received advances which he had not afterwards accounted for, and Mr. Hickey agreed to change that particular paragraph so as to eliminate the names of Messrs. Thompson, Stoneman and others, and make a general statement in reference to advances to county officials during Treasurer Morehead's term. The substitution was made and submitted to Chairman Woods, but he refused to sanction the change, and the original paragraph was restored.

We have a copy of the typewritten sheet giving that particular paragraph as rewritten and rejected by Mr. Woods. This is sufficient, we think, to show that Mr. Hickey did not have a free hand in writing his report, and to strengthen the presumption that the intention was to use the report as a political document to aid the election of certain republican candidates.

We submit these facts and deductions to the voters of Gila county for their consideration, believing that they will place the seal of their disapproval upon this scheme and its promoters at the ballot box on November 8.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Met in Regular Quarterly Session
Last Monday Morning,
at Globe

LARGE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS

Quarterly Reports of the Various
County Officers. Bills Audited
and Approved. Other Details of
Our County Government

Globe, Ariz., Oct. 5, 1904.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board of Supervisors met at 9:30 o'clock a.m. There were present: Lyman C. Woods, chairman; J. G. Oldfield and David Devore, members, and W. D. Fisk, clerk.

The report of Expert P. K. Hickey was received and read, and upon motion same was ordered filed, a copy being reserved for District Attorney Geo. R. Hill, and also one for Chairman Lyman C. Woods. Upon further motion, the Board instructed the district attorney to examine the report and return to the Board his opinion, together with such recommendations as he may propose.

An itemized report of property taxes collected by J. H. Thompson during the years of 1901 and 1902, together with the names of the payees, and the amounts paid, showing the amounts collected for the two years to be \$20,421.06 (5 per cent of same being \$1021.05) was examined and ordered filed. Also, itemized report of property taxes collected by C. R. Rogers for the year 1903, showing amounts collected to be \$10,585.48 (5 per cent of same being \$529.25) was examined and ordered filed.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the report of P. K. Hickey was ordered to be published.

Upon motion, the Board took a recess until 1:30 o'clock p.m.

Pursuant to recess the Board met at 1:30 o'clock p.m. All members and the clerk present.

Petition of J. C. Lundy to construct a water pipe line from what is known as the "Lundy orchard" (lot 6, block 79) along Broad street, to his lodging house (lot 7, block 75), for the protection against fire, was received, and upon motion, was granted as prayed for.

Petition of property owners along the west side of Broad street, between Push street and Pinal creek, complaining that the property owners on the east side of Broad street had raised the grade, and continued to raise it, to the danger and inconvenience of petitioners, and requesting the Board to take action in the matter, was presented and considered. Upon motion same was referred to the road overseer with instructions to attend to it at his early convenience, with a view of letting the drainage ditch on the east side of the street provide for conducting its proportion of water to Pinal creek.

Upon motion, the following demands were allowed, and warrants ordered drawn on the general fund in payment thereof:

No. 512—Esidro Lecano, transporting indigent.....	\$20 00
No. 513—C. R. Rogers, sheriff's fees.....	62 90
No. 514—Old Dominion Commercial company, assigned sheriff's fees.....	16 10
No. 515—W. D. Fisk, cash advanced for help in recorder's office.....	660 00
No. 516—C. R. Rogers, services with coroner.....	16 00
No. 517—C. H. Blevins, bounty.....	40 00
No. 518—C. H. Blevins, bounty.....	20 00
No. 519—A. F. Matsch, examining lunatic.....	5 00
No. 520—B. G. Jackson, repairs.....	2 00
No. 521—G. M. Allison, W. U. clock and telegrams.....	23 65
No. 522—J. E. McNeil, supplies.....	1 50
No. 523—L. O. Lowthian, hauling.....	2 00
Report of Road Overseer F. C. Schulze was received and ordered filed.	

Upon motion, the Board adjourned to meet at 9:30 o'clock a.m., October 6, 1904.

Approved.
LYMAN C. WOODS, Chairman.
Attest: W. D. Fisk, Clerk.

Globe, Ariz., Oct. 6, 1904.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Board of supervisors met at 9:30 o'clock a.m. There were present: Lyman C. Woods, chairman; David Devore and J. G. Oldfield, members, and W. D. Fisk, clerk.

Application of Louis C. Hill, in charge, on behalf of the United States and for the benefit of the reclamation service of the United States geological survey, for a lease for five years, pursuant to the laws relating to the leasing of school lands, for the follow-

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ing described land, situated in Gila county, was considered, and upon motion was referred to the district attorney for his opinion. The land mentioned in above application being described as follows: The southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, the west half of the southeast quarter, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the east half of the southwest quarter of section thirty-six (36), in township four (4), north of range thirteen (13) east, G. & S. R. B. & M., containing 240 acres.

Demand from territorial industrial school for caring for Burr Blevins, Robert Brenton and Lucas Sandoval was considered, and upon motion, was referred to district attorney for opinion.

The destitute families of Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Tewksbury were reported to the Board, and upon motion, the Board allowed each of the above mentioned families the sum of \$10 per month, for three months, and recommending that Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Tewksbury allow the Board to send the smallest of the children to the orphan's home at Los Angeles, the county agreeing to pay the expenses of the same.

Monthly reports of county recorder for July, August and September were received and ordered filed.

Report of county school superintendent for quarter ending September 30, 1904, was received and ordered filed.

Sheriff's reports of licenses, property tax and school tax collected during quarter ending September 30, 1904, were received and ordered filed.

Quarterly report of county treasurer was received and ordered filed as follows:

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER OF
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA.
Globe, Ariz., Sept. 30th, 1904.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

Gentlemen: Herby I respectfully beg to submit to you my report for the quarter ending September 30th, 1904.

RECEIPTS.

July 1st—	
Balance in treasury as reported.....	\$12,832 12
Delinquent taxes of 1901, received.....	3 90
Delinquent taxes of 1902, received.....	2,067 43
Delinquent taxes of 1903, received.....	3,671 57
Fines, from justice of the peace.....	387 10
Interest from bank on balances.....	215 00
Special school tax of 1903.....	61 44
Poll taxes for the year 1903.....	150 50
Poll taxes for the year 1904, so far received.....	33 00
Gambling licenses.....	820 50
Saloon licenses.....	1,116 25
Personal property tax of 1903, on sheep.....	71 85
Charged back items included in warrant No. 465.....	164 95
School warrant No. 1, entered twice.....	21 75
General fund, account error in footing.....	4 00
Cash deposited for school land leases.....	15 00
General fund warrants paid in May, 1903, mislaid.....	226 57
Cash returned for advances, out of warrant No. 985.....	20 00
Payson road district warrant No. 39 A. H. M. paid.....	75 00

Concluded on fifth page.

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